

CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Winter 2016

In this issue:

Affordable Housing
Raintree Wetland
Parks & Recreation
Programming

Special insert:

2015 Annual Progress Report

WPD & NHCSO to host community discussions

The Wilmington Police Department and the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office are partnering with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to conduct a series of community discussions throughout New Hanover County.

These moderated discussions, called dialogue circles, are aimed at providing a forum for law enforcement personnel and citizens to come together to discuss issues and build relationships, trust and understanding.

UNCW will oversee the initiative, which was created in partnership with several local organizations including the local NAACP, LINC Inc. and the OOPS Foundation.

The idea for the dialogue circles came from the City of Wilmington's city-wide discussions on youth violence reduction held in 2013-2014. One of the recommendations from those discussions was to enhance relations between the community and law enforcement.

More than 20 dialogue circles are slated for the next few months. **Citizens who are interested in participating can register online at www.positiveleoencounters.com**, or call the Wilmington Police Department Public Affairs Office at 910-341-4608.



**For more information, visit
www.positiveleoencounters.com
or call 910-341-4608**



Annual State of the City Address

Rebroadcast on the web
and on GTV:

www.wilmingtonnc.gov/GTV

Time Warner Cable Ch. 8

Tune in to learn more about improvements the city has made over the past year and get a glimpse of what's coming up in the future.

Additional city public safety efforts

Over the last three years, the city has dedicated additional resources to address gang violence while also increasing community outreach efforts targeted to at-risk youth. More efforts are being considered as the city begins to develop next year's budget – here are a few highlights of what's in place now:

- WPD Mobile Field Force (MFF) designed to respond quickly to crime, or fear of crime, anywhere in the city
- New gang unit focused on deterring gang-related activity
- Expanded downtown Task Force made up of seven WPD officers and seven NHC deputies
- 10 "overhires" to help make sure the department is fully staffed at all times
- Funding for additional WPD detectives
- Expanded WPD community outreach
- Expanded funding and programming for at-risk youth centered at city recreation centers
- Additional funding for non-profit agencies that support youth violence reduction efforts
- Expanded Police Athletic League (PAL) recreation/tutoring programs
- Series of community meetings culminating in report on youth violence reduction recommendations
- Partnership and funding with UNCW to continue work on report recommendations and additional outreach efforts
- Official support for agreement with schools and law enforcement for greater flexibility to keep kids in school and maintain order in schools
- Enhanced collaboration with New Hanover County Sheriff's Office and NHC District Attorney's Office

Check the back

Want to find out how to receive this newsletter by email or learn more about the city on Facebook or Twitter? Check out the back page to find out more.



City works to increase affordable housing

According to federal guidelines, a majority of Wilmington's renters are paying a disproportionate amount of their income for housing, leaving little for basics such as food and healthcare. The issue was also discussed in depth at the Mayor's Roundtable on Housing Affordability in November.

Working with affordable housing developers, both non-profit and for-profit, the city has leveraged federal and state tax credits, private financing and other funds to support development of more than 500 units of affordable rental housing for elderly, disabled and low-to-moderate income families over the past 15-20 years.

Additionally, through partnerships with nonprofit groups and others, the city has been able to increase the number of affordable housing units within the city limits. In partnership with local banks, the city has leveraged federal housing funds to help more than 400 low- to moderate-income families purchase home ownership over the last 25 years. The city also offers loan programs for home repair and rehabilitation for low- and moderate-income families in an effort to help them remain in their homes.

The lack of affordable places to rent will continue to grow as Wilmington faces an expected population increase of almost 60,000 over the next 25 years. The majority of that increase will be millennials (born 1980-2000) who are more likely to want to rent small homes in town rather than buy a larger home in the suburbs. The city continues to work with the Cape Fear Housing Coalition and others to find ways to provide more affordable housing in Wilmington.



Lockwood Village on South College Road



New Brooklyn Homes at Robert R. Taylor Estates on N. 4th Street



www.facebook.com/wilmingtonhousing/



Cleaning up our waterways

Raintree neighborhood installs wetland

What was a drainage ditch has been converted to a functioning wetland in the Raintree neighborhood off Greenville Loop Road. The constructed wetland absorbs and naturally filters polluted runoff from the neighborhood, allowing it to soak back into the ground instead of running off into Hewletts Creek. The wetland also helps solve flooding issues for nearby homes. The wetland was planted with moisture-tolerant native plants that attract insects such as dragonflies and damselflies, which prey on mosquitoes and their larvae. In addition, several residences in the South Bradley Creek area have put into place their own measures to reduce stormwater runoff, including pervious pavement that allows water to soak through, rain barrels and cisterns. These types of measures help support the Bradley & Hewletts Creek Watershed Restoration plan, with the goal of reducing polluted runoff into our creeks.



For more information, visit www.healourwaterways.com

City parks offer events, programs

The City of Wilmington's park facilities offer a wide variety of public events and programming for all ages to enjoy. Below are just a few examples:

Greenfield Grind Skatepark

Check out this facility that has more than 9,000 square feet of skate space, including multi-bowls and a banked street course.

Empie Dog Park

Take your pooch to this fenced-in park with play areas and water and waste stations.

Fit for Fun Center

Check out programming for children throughout the year such as the Annual Egg Hunt in March.

Maides Park

This park offers several programs such as Art from the Heart, an arts and crafts program for people with disabilities and Kinder Corp, an arts and crafts program for preschoolers. There is also a free walking club that meets weekly.

MLK Center at Robert Strange Park

This community center offers senior programs such as volleyball, bingo and pickle ball. MLK Youth Basketball is also hosted here.

Halyburton Park

Halyburton Park offers nature programs for youth about reptiles, amphibians and other topics. Birdwatching and the multi-use trail are also popular.

 [Learn more at wilmingtonnc.gov](http://wilmingtonnc.gov) or call 341-7855



Greenfield Grind Skatepark



Fit for Fun Center



Halyburton Park

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Grounds Technician Jamie Rogers

Groundskeeping all over the city

Grounds Technician Jamie Rogers has been maintaining the city's parks, alleys and right-of-ways for more than 15 years.

With more than 440 acres of city maintained public parks and almost 140 miles of right-of-ways, Rogers maintains and helps beautify places all over the city. Maintaining the city's parks takes a lot more than just landscaping and even involves operating heavy equipment. Rogers says he likes being outside and working with the public. When he's not working, he enjoys spending time with his children and singing country and rock Karaoke.

Greenfield Lake dock gets makeover

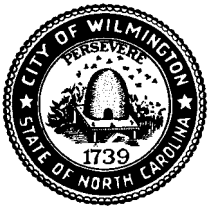
The city is preparing to perform a major upgrade to the public docks, walkway and bulkhead at Greenfield Lake. The \$440,000 project will begin this winter and involve much-needed repairs to the existing wooden bulkhead, wooden walkway and paddle boat docks, located on the northwest side of Greenfield Park. The new walkway and docks will be handicap accessible.





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General Information Phone Numbers

Citizen Services Information341-7800
Emergency911
Police/Non-Emergency343-3600
To find the police district assigned to your neighborhood,
see wilmingtonnc.gov/police
Fire/Non-Emergency341-7846
Parks and Recreation341-7855
Parks Hotline341-7852
Street Maintenance341-7879
Parking762-5678
Zoning254-0900
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Code Enforcement341-3266

Look for the  for information

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can sign up to receive this newsletter by email
instead of direct mail. If you are interested, please
email the city with your name and regular mailing
address to: newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are generally held on the
first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
at City Hall. For more information, see the city's
web site at: wilmingtonnc.gov

City Council Meetings on GTV8

Council meetings are broadcast live on GTV8,
the city channel on Timewarner Cable. Council
meetings are replayed:

~ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week of
the Council meeting at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

GTV8 online

All GTV8 programming can be found on the city's
website, live or on-demand. From the front page,
simply click on "online videos." Then, select the
program you want to watch.

City information at your fingertips



www.wilmingtonnc.gov



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@CityofWilm (general news)
@WilmingtonPD (police department)



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